

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WARSAW 00705 270027Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 FBOE-00 A-01 SS-15 ABF-01
AGRE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
/041 W

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2922

C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 0705

EO 11652GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PL, AFSP, ABLD
SUBJ: FAREWELL CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER: RENT INCREASES

REF: A. STATE 10456, B. STATE 14301, C. WARSAW 0703

1. AFTER I HAD FINISHED TALKING ABOUT THE THREE FREEDOM-
OF-MOVEMENT CASES WITH FOREIGN MINISTER WOJTASZEK (REF C),
I SAID I WANTED TO RAISE ANOTHER MATTER WHICH, I FELT, COULD
NOT WAIT UNTIL MY SUCCESSOR ARRIVED.

2. I SAID THAT THE DECREE OF OCTOBER 25, 1977, PROVIDING
FOR SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN RENTS CHARGED ON THE PREMISES
LEASED BY FOREIGNERS IN POLAND, INCLUDING THOSE OCCUPIED
BY DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND THEIR PERSONNEL, HAD STIRRED A
GREAT DEAL OF RESENTMENT IN THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. AS FOR
OURSELVES, WE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO PREPARE A STRONG
WRITTEN PROTEST AT ITS DISCRIMINATORY CHARACTER. WE WOULD
SEND THAT PROTEST TO THE MINISTRY IN A NOTE.

3. MEANWHILE, HOWEVER, I WISHED ORALLY TO PROTEST THIS
DECREE AND ITS EFFECT. I SAID THAT, IN VIEW OF MY
GOVERNMENT, IT CONSTITUTED CLASS DISCRIMINATION AGAINST
FOREIGNERS, INCLUDING DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, SINCE IT
ESTABLISHED RENTALS FROM 10 TO 15 TIMES AS HIGH AS THOSE
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WHICH APPLY TO POLISH CITIZENS. IT DISCRIMINATED ALSO
AGAINST EMBASSIES OF FREE-MARKET COUNTRIES. THESE RATES
SEEM TO US TO CONTRAVENE THE VIENNA CONVENTION, WHICH
REQUIRES HOST GOVERNMENTS TO "FACILITATE THE ACQUISITION
OF PROPERTY" REQUIRED FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF THE WORK OF
DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS. I SAID WE WERE PARTICULARLY DISTURBED
BECAUSE IT DISCRIMINATES AGAINST US, WHO PAY OUR RENTS IN

ZLOTYS ACQUIRED AS A RESULT OF PL-480 SALES, IN FAVOR OF COUNTRIES ACQUIRING THEIR ZLOTYS FOR HARD CURRENCY. I SAID THIS WAS PARTICULARLY UPSETTING AT A TIME WHEN WE WERE AGAIN TALKING ABOUT GRAIN SALES ON CREDIT AND IN VIEW OF THE KRZAK-KISSINGER LETTER OF MAY 15, 1975, WHICH WAS PART OF AN AGREEMENT TO DEFER REPAYMENT OF POLISH OBLIGATIONS UNDER PL-480 AND WHICH PROVIDED THAT THE POLISH GOVERNMENT WOULD SUPPORT REQUESTS BY THE USG TO ACQUIRE RESIDENTIAL AND SCHOOL FACILITIES, BY SALE OR RENTAL, "ON FAVORABLE TERMS." THE PROVISIONS OF THE OCTOBER, 1977, DECREE COULD HARDLY BE REGARDED AS "FAVORABLE TERMS."

4. WOJTASZEK SAID HE WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE DETAILS OF THIS MATTER, BUT, WHEN IT WAS RECEIVED, OUR NOTE WOULD BE CAREFULLY STUDIED AND REPLIED TO.
DAVIES

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NNN

Message Attributes

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